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AUSTIN.

Railroad Commission Bill Gone Glimmering and Its Friends Gone to Quarreling.

Speaker Gibson's Substitute Adopted by a Small Majority After a Lively Debate.

Hot Words Used and Keen Insinuations Indulged In—Notes and Comment.

House.

Austin, March 10.—The house took up the bill for the creation of the county of Upton and being amended to place the name of John before Upton, the bill was ordered engrossed.

Mr. Cramer called up the bill denouncing a portion of Milam county and naming the same to Lee county and the bill passed under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Upton called up the house substitute to the bill entitled an act to organize the Fifth, Seventeenth and thirty-fifth judicial districts and to fix the time of holding the courts therein to change the time of holding the district courts in the Seventh, Fourteenth, Twenty-fourth, twenty-ninth and thirty-fourth judicial districts and in the counties of Kaufman, Sabine, San Augustine and Wood County was taken up, and the amendments read.

Mr. Ayers moved that the house do concur in the senate amendments and ask a conference committee, which action prevailed and the speaker appointed Messrs. Ayers, Chambers, Grant, and Robinson of Jack as such conference committee on the part of the house.

Mr. White called up the bill for the amendment of certain cases from the supreme court at Austin to Galveston, and the bill passed under a suspension of the rules.

The bill making embezzlement a crime to the statute on that passed.

Mr. Patterson's bill to amend the act of 1879 with senate amendment read.

The amendment is to re-enact the old Sunday law from nine to twelve o'clock and also allowing the sale of newspapers at any hour of the day.

Mr. Frymier moved the senate amendments be concurred in. The motion prevailed and a motion to reconsider was ordered.

Mr. Parsons called up the bill fixing boundary lines of Rockwall county and the same was engrossed.

Mr. Kendall, by leave introduced a bill to amend the act for the reorganization of the tenth judicial district.

In motion of Mr. Moore, of McLennan county, Mr. Nash's bill granting authority to county commissioners to appoint public weighers.

Mr. Ayers moved that the house do concur in the senate amendments and ask a conference committee, which action prevailed and the speaker appointed Messrs. Ayers, Chambers, Grant, and Robinson of Jack as such conference committee on the part of the house.

After considerable discussion on an amendment by Mr. Chenoweth that clerks be kept to be named by the speaker, it was adopted.

REGULAR ORDER.

The railroad bill came up as the regular order and Mr. Chenoweth's amendment to direct the commissioner to prepare a schedule of freight and passenger tariffs to be presented to the next legislature was adopted.

The question occurred on the adoption of Mr. Gibson's substitute for the bill, upon which Mr. Upton moved a motion to amend the bill.

Three members moved to answer, but upon motion of Mr. Frank the absentees were excused.

Mr. Hill argued against the substitute in quite a lengthy speech, in which he contended that the commission bill as amended was the worst piece of railroad legislation ever before by Texas legislature.

Mr. Ayers spoke in favor of the bill against the substitute, in which he warned the members that to adopt the substitute was to endorse a measure in which there was absolutely no efficiency.

Mr. Upton moved the previous question, which was seconded, and a main question ordered.

Mr. Gibson said the substitute was the debate by right under the previous question. He said if the majority do not want the substitute, and prefer an amended bill he would earnestly labor to perfect that bill and adopt it.

In presenting the substitute he did not arrogate to himself any right which rightfully belongs to others, and whatever legislation shall be effected, to the committee on later improvements belongs the credit.

He was in favor of some railroad legislation, and the substitute was presented in deference to his earnest opinion that some compromise measure was necessary if any was effected.

By unanimous consent Mr. Chenoweth was allowed to close, having been cut off from doing so by operation of the previous question.

It had been whispered that he would make a strong appeal in behalf of his apparently doomed bill and those who expected a splendid speech were not in the least disappointed. But few words were heard from him as it was known that the fire of his nature which had been so long restrained during the continued consideration of this bill had returned with increased vigor and the members and occupants of the gallery gave strict and interested attention.

He spoke but a few minutes and while reaching the very height of his oratory not a word was sacrificed for the beautiful at the expense of argument and logical reasoning. He said the bill in the amendment was not the committee, and was not the Chenoweth bill, but was

the bill of the house. It was in truth the very embodiment of the views upon this question of the entire house.

If there was wisdom in this substitute it appeared to him that it should, if not submitted to the committee, at least have been placed along side of the bill before the house in order that the truth of its wisdom would have been tested, and not as has been done, presented at this late day.

So far as the committee bill was concerned he did not desire any stamp of his upon it. He did not wish the bill illustrated with his photograph. His great and only desire in the matter was to answer in the most practicable manner the voice of the people, which he still maintained was the voice of God.

The substitute proposed to place one made of flesh and blood and human nature like us all in control of the great interests which had been mentioned so often of late, instead of three, as proposed by the bill. He referred briefly to the smooth workings of the commission in other states and while he did not claim the bill was perfect he thought it possessed of sufficient wisdom to merit the favorable consideration of the legislature and the people. He then in an impassioned manner exclaimed, "You may kill this bill but I warn you when you bury it and leave it wrapped in the rainment of the grave, those who strike the blow will have left only an empty winding sheet to carry back to their people in answer to their earnest, constant and persistent demands."

He was not an enemy to the railroads but did not envy the man who described him as such, but he did think these great corporations for which the state has done so much should bow to a reasonable demand from those who have conferred such lasting favors.

In conclusion he did not desire understood after adjournment that he had attempted to load down the train of progress and prosperity. He would burnish and brighten the wheels, propel and steady the machinery, but by the gods he would not repose the reins in the hands of another Phetion to drive wildly, madly and unrestrained through the sky to the destruction of the substantial interests of the country.

The delivery of the speech was attended with considerable applause. The vote was then taken on the adoption of the substitute and resulted ayes 45, nays 39, as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Abbott, Ayers, Adams, Trinity, Barnett, Barry, Benavides, Chambers of Collin, Chambers of Tarrant, Cochran, Caven, Cuddeback, Davis of Camp, Dennis, Duff, Finch, Fisher, Foster of Grayson, Frymier, Graves, Harkness, Hearne, Jackson, Johnson, Kendall, Labatt, Latham, McBride, McKinney, Moore of Washington, Newton, Odum, Patterson, Peers, Robertson of Williamson, Robinson of Jack, Rogers, Rosenthal, Scott, Swan, Taylor, Telfer, Upton, Watkins, Wilson and Wyatt.—45.

Nays—Messrs. Armistead, Ayres, Brown, Burns, Camp, Caven, Chenoweth, Cramer, Durant, Elliott, Ethridge, Foster of Limestone, Frank, Garrison, Harrison, Hazelwood, Henderson, Hill, Jones, King, McDaniel, McGarity, Meriwether, Moore of McLennan, Nash, Parsons, Patton, Phelps, Robinson of Eastrop, Sharp, Stagner, Steel, Stringer, Thompson of Austin, Tilton, Townsend, White, Woods and Wortham.—39.

Absent and not voting—Messrs. Blunt, Browning, Cauffman, Cotton, Davis of Lamar, Douglass, Hurst, Lee, Leo, Lindsey, Matthews, McAlphine, Moore of Eastland, Moursand, Pendleton, Rushing, Smith, Stout, Thompson of Bexar, and Wurzbach.—29.

Mr. Taylor voted aye in order to move a reconsideration. He made such motion and addressed the house at some length. He said the house had labored faithfully on this bill and had got it into an acceptable shape and yesterday he thought he could see the clouds fading away and the sunlight coming in; that the pledges of the Democrats to the people were about to be carried out. He conscientiously believed that if it were not for the source from whence the substitute came it would be open to the charge of seeking to defeat all legislation on this subject.

This bill was in the predicament of the veteran who was asked by his wife, "All I ask, sir, is to be protected from my enemies." If this bill is killed it may be emblazoned upon its tomb, "Killed by its friends."

Mr. Labatt began an argument against the reconsideration and said there had been no demand for legislation on the subject. When Mr. Chenoweth read from the Galveston platform on that point Mr. Labatt said he would vote for the substitute.

Mr. Chenoweth—Did not the gentleman inform me this forenoon that he would vote against the substitute?

Mr. Labatt—Yes sir. But since then I have seen the substitute.

Mr. Chenoweth—(smilingly) Yes you have seen somebody else.

Mr. Labatt—I say that is untrue.

Mr. McKinney moved to lay Mr. Taylor's motion to reconsider on the table which motion prevailed by ayes 44, nays 38.

The house then adjourned until 3 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On motion of Mr. Labatt the bill to punish for false swearing under the quarantine laws was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. Hill the bill to validate certain survey of school lands heretofore surveyed was taken up and passed.

Mr. Labatt rose to a question of privilege and asked Mr. Chenoweth if he meant to insinuate by his remark this morning that he (Labatt) had been improperly approached by any man on the railway question.

After some colloquy Mr. Chenoweth said that he had applied improper action to man. He was not the keeper of other men's consciences.

The bill fixing the salaries of the chief clerks in the principal state departments at \$2,000 per annum, was engrossed.

The railroad substitute bill came up in regular order.

Mr. Chenoweth offered an amendment to substitute the first four sections of the printed bill for the corresponding sections in the substitute thus supplanting the proposed state engineer with three commissioners.

Mr. Wilson raised the point of order that the sections having been voted down this morning, it was incompetent to offer them as an amendment.

The speaker, Mr. Cochran in the chair, sustained the point of order.

Mr. Chenoweth appealed from the decision of the chair. After some discussion Mr. Upton moved to lay the appeal on the table, which motion prevailed by ayes 43, nays 35.

Mr. Foster of Limestone offered an amendment to section seven, which provided in substance for fixing the maximum.

After quite a lengthy discussion by Messrs. Foster, Cravens and Swan, Mr. Chenoweth arose and after saying he was pained to have to disagree with his esteemed and distinguished friend, Mr. Foster, or to his amendment, and in a very deliberate manner spoke in substance as follows: He was not here to lament the bill which had fallen a corpse at the feet of this house this morning. The keener pang was because he did not expect the blow from the bow whence it came. This legislature he thought well understood the position of the honorable speaker on this subject. He (Chenoweth) had left a sick bed to come to this capitol to assist in his elevation to the honorable position he now occupies. He then in an impassioned manner repeated the couplet:

"Keen are the pangs, but far worse to feel,
We nursed the pinion that impelled the steel."

The amendment of Mr. Foster was voted down by ayes 24, nays 64, and the house adjourned.

Notes.

As premised in yesterday's GAZETTE, no feeling of compromise has shown up in the house.

Mr. Gibson's substitute was adopted by a very small majority, but it will fall of final passage for two reasons. First, most of the friends of the defeated bill will fight it; and second, many who voted for it to-day in order to defeat the Chenoweth bill and who are opposed to any railroad legislation at all, will desert at the critical hour. The remarks of Col. Chenoweth with regard to Speaker Gibson, just before adjournment this morning, may be put down as the key to the situation. The feeling is growing in bitterness every hour among the members, and remarks that prudential reasons keep out of print are constantly given expression. It is very certain that the house has reached that state of mind when an adjournment would be desirable, and which for that reason may be brought about. While the remarks of Mr. Chenoweth contained no words absolutely personal in their nature it is conceded by the speaker's friends that he cannot afford to leave them unanswered. The gentleman may have been a very warm personal friend and while there is no reason to doubt this slight breach may be effectively and amicably healed, it is probably safe to say that by to-day's proceedings a flame has been kindled which will not be subdued here, but which will be felt in the future political affairs of the state. This has been a red-hot day in the house, and the lobby was crowded most of the time with an eager and apparently excited throng. A prominent ex-senator is acting to-night as a mediator between Messrs. Chenoweth and Gibson, and the friends of both are hopeful that all unkind feeling may be speedily obliterated.

The state treasurer received \$30,000 in school funds and \$19,000 to the account of general revenue.

The charter of the First Presbyterian church of Dallas was filed, also the Taylor Opera-house of Jefferson.

Rev. J. C. Cowan of McKinney was placed in the asylum to-day.

THE FLOODS.

Water Receding in the Lower Mississippi, but Great Damage Done.

Memphis, March 10.—A special from Helena, Ark., to the western associated press says the river has declined half an inch, and will continue to fall slowly for several days when a more rapid decline is expected. The levees are still being strengthened and will be made thoroughly secure in this vicinity. The backwater is still rising in the overflowed districts below this and will continue until the decline in the river is great enough to draw the water back through the crevices. The most terrific currents, the roar from which can be heard here during the still hours of night, are tearing through the country below, carrying destruction with them. In Old Town, lake region, the water is higher than ever known. The cabins, fences and dead carcasses of animals are seen floating down the river in great numbers. The weather is clear with a strong wind from the northwest. Southern express has been transferred to the Midland road during the stoppage of trains over the Iron Mountain route.

The Duke-Nutt Case.

Uniontown, Pa., March 10.—The jury in the Duke-Nutt murder case was secured at noon to-day. The difficulty encountered was not so great as anticipated. A panel of sixty jurors was exhausted. When the jury had been sworn Judge Wilson put them in charge of officers and adjourned the case until Monday, when the taking of evidence will commence.

Cremation Society.

Chicago, Ill., March 10.—A cremation society with a capital of \$100,000 is to be organized here at once.

WASHINGTON.

Views of the Secretary of the Treasury Concerning Representative Tom Ochiltree's Salary.

Conference of the President and Civil Service Tariff Commission on Their Programme.

Views of the British Legation in regard to the Extradition of Sheridan—Other Notes.

Washington, March 10.—The members of the civil service commission called on the executive mansion this evening and had a short conference with the president in regard to the general plan of operations to be observed in carrying the law into effect. It was agreed the commission should prepare a set of rules in regard to the questions under their jurisdiction and submit them to the president for approval. The selection of chief examiner under the commission was not agreed upon.

Charges have been filed by a person whose name is withheld, against Supervising Architect Hill, and the secretary of the treasury is now considering the best method of investigating them. The charges were filed about ten days ago, while Secretary Folger was confined to his house. They are prepared in an informal style, with specifications and a list of witnesses who are said to be able to substantiate them. Secretary Folger declines to make public the particulars or nature of the charges, but it is understood, alleged to be general mismanagement, corruption and malfeasance in connection with work on public buildings. Representative Murch of Maine is said to be the person who makes the charges.

The statement of the United States treasurer shows gold, silver and United States notes in the treasury to-day as follows: Gold coin and bullion, \$179,052,563; silver dollars and bullion, \$105,053,753; fractional silver coin, \$276,386,237; United States notes, \$45,937,759; total, \$336,432,312; certificates outstanding, gold \$42,322,130; silver \$8,316,300; currency, \$19,695,000.

The president will make a short visit to Fort Monroe next week. He is feeling indisposed, and takes the trip for the benefit of his health. He has not yet decided whether he will take the trip to Florida.

The secretary of the interior to-day formally leased to Carroll Hobart of Dakota territory, Henry Douglas, T. H. Yates, D. T. and Rufus Hatch, of New York, a number of small tracts of lands in the Yellowstone National Park for a period of ten years. The lease comprises seven tracts of land aggregating ten acres, and it is provided the several parcels of land shall not be within one-quarter of a mile of any geysers on the Yellowstone. The term of the lease is ten years from March 9th, 1883.

The parties of the second part agree to construct one principal hotel at Mammoth Hot Springs, costing \$150,000 and containing not less than two hundred and fifty rooms. They further agree to conduct six small hotels upon a plan to be afterwards approved by the secretary of the interior at the following points: one at the Geysers, one at the Riverside station, one at Soda Bath Springs, one at Tower Falls, one at Great Falls and one at the banks of Yellowstone lake. It is provided that at the expiration of ten years the value of the buildings and other permanent improvements belonging to the lessees shall be determined by arbitration and become the absolute property of the government upon ratification of appraisal and appropriation of the amount agreed upon, with the provision that nothing contained in lease shall be construed to bind the government to pay any compensation. The annual rental agreed upon is two dollars per acre. The lessees agree to observe all the rules and regulations established by the secretary of the interior for the government of the park and to submit to the secretary for his approval a schedule of charges for the accommodation of the public.

In the case of Representative Ochiltree the solicitor of the treasury is inclined to doubt the legality of the decision made. He had an interview with Secretary Folger this afternoon, and made the point that it might be considered as a matter of public policy to withhold the salary of representatives of the people as tending to interfere with his constitutional prerogatives. Secretary Folger now has the question under consideration. In this connection, Representative Ochiltree filed an argument with the first comptroller protesting against his action in advising that his salary be withheld until a settlement of his accounts as marshal of Texas. The application for a compromise of this case has not yet been decided upon.

The secretary of the treasury to-day approved the rules and regulations and the amendments to the same adopted at a recent meeting of the supervising inspectors of steam vessels. The changes are as follows: Amendments to rule four requires affidavits of local inspectors as to the genuineness of the samples of iron sent to the supervising inspectors for test. Amendment to rule twenty-three regulates the location of the steam fire-pump, and exempting ferry boats from the provisions of the rule. Amendment to rule thirteen relating to life-boats, modifies the former rule which was claimed to be in many cases impracticable. Amendment to rule twelve, requires that all rubber or canvas life-boats shall be kept inflated at all times. Amendment to rule fifty-seven, requires officers and crews of river passenger steamers to be disciplined in fire drill and to keep a station bell. A resolution requiring a new plank for applicants for licenses as officers of steamboats, was adopted.

Secretary Folger received application from the state of New York through the state comptroller for redemption on the first of April next of \$2,000,000 of United States bonds, embraced in the last call, which will mature on the first of May with interest only to the time of redemption, as the government would thereby save one month's interest. The secretary is inclined to assent to the application.

The state department has received information as to the intention of the British government relative to the execution of a warrant for the arrest of P. J. Sheridan. Inquiries at the British legation elicited the information that while no further steps have been taken in the matter, no instructions from the home government have been received to abandon further proceedings. The steps thus far taken are merely preliminary to a hearing upon the merits of the case with the reserved right on the part of our government to pass upon the evidence adduced and grant or refuse the extradition of Sheridan. The action of her majesty's government in pressing an abandonment seems to be influenced by the weight of the character of the evidence which it may be possible to furnish in support of the request for the extradition. There are reasons to believe the matter will not be pressed unless the British government feels assured it can make out a case which will satisfy the state department that the extradition should be granted.

Thomas Worthington of Ohio, to-day entered suit against E. W. Knightly, third auditor of the treasury for \$50,000 damages on account of what are described by the complainants as hundreds of false, malicious, libelous and groundless allegations calculated and intended to prevent the payment by the United States government of plaintiff's just claims for army supplies furnished volunteer troops at Camp Dennison Ohio, in 1861.

The complaint sets forth that the allegations referred to were made by the third auditor in various official reports and letters written by him in regard to plaintiff and addressed to President Hayes, to the assistant secretary of the treasury and Congressman Butterworth.

Ex-Senator Dorsey furnishes the following, a dispatch from Denver, which states that the so-called Belford check was really given to J. B. Russell, then initials being the same. There seems to be a determination to insist there was such a check, and Bissell is selected for the reason that his initials are J. B. R. It is said that Bissell, I don't remember, I certainly never gave him a check. I never played cards on the cars for money in my life, with anybody. There never was a check issued by me or an account in my books in the name of J. B. R. To be certain as to this fact I have had my checks examined running back for ten years.

General Sherman will take a trip this summer to California and the Pacific coast. He states he will be accompanied by two of his aides and several ladies.

Secretary Chandler instructed the naval advisory board to proceed at once and prepare plans for five new United States war vessels, provided by congress consisting of three steel cruisers and two torpedo boats; also to arrange for the completion and repair of four unfinished monitors. The latter will be worked upon the first, and it is thought the first contract will be given out in two weeks.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER.

Murdered at their Home by Unknown Parties Near Indianapolis.

Indianapolis, March 10.—Advices of the horrible murder of two women living on a farm fourteen miles from here, on the Lafayette pike, reached this city after 2 o'clock this morning. The victims were Mrs. Lucinda Fortman, a widow, aged ninety years, and a maiden daughter, aged fifty-one years. They lived alone on their farm. One of the bodies was found outside of the house, under a pile of straw, and the other in the kitchen of the dwelling. An axe was the instrument used to accomplish the deed. Very few particulars and no clue to the murderers. The coroner went out from here but has not returned.

Very little additional information is received in regard to the murder of Mrs. Fortman and daughter. The coroner has not returned. The greatest excitement prevails in the neighborhood, but nothing was developed to discover the guilty party. An attempt was made three weeks ago by unknown parties to enter the house. On another occasion an attempt was made to overcome the inmates with chloroform.

The Excursionists.

Special to the Gazette.
Toyon, March 10.—The excursion arrived safely at El Paso, and after inspecting the points of interest there and at Paso del Norte, Mexico, was entertained by the band. The Texas & Pacific officials have done the handsome thing throughout, furnishing the best means that west Texas affords, which is good enough for anybody. Tucker hired the band to escort the party to the train at Toyon. Supper was taken here. The party lays over until morning and will reach Fort Worth early to-morrow morning.

Death of a Prominent Man.

New Bedford, Mass., March 10.—Hon. Jno. A. Hawes, late commodore of the New Bedford Yacht Club, ex-department commander of Grand Army of the Republic, and of distinguished service as a state senator and in the North Carolina campaign, died this morning, aged fifty-nine years.

Indicted.

Boston, March 10.—Harvey N. Polansky, defaulting treasurer of the Boston Police Relief Association, was indicted by the grand jury to-day in the Fourth Court, charging him with embezzlement of \$27,000. He was remanded for trial.

WIGGINS' WEATHER.

Snow Storms Prevailing Throughout the North and Considerable Rain and Wind.

Preparations for the Event in Many Places, But the Storm in Fact a Failure.

Washington, March 10.—A storm of great energy, which first appeared at midnight on the North Carolina coast, has pursued a northeasterly track and is now central. Near Delaware the breakwater is dangerous. Northeast winds are anticipated to-day and to-night on the New England coast, followed by clearing weather and westerly winds.

New York, March 10.—It appears of all the sailing vessels cleared yesterday and today, whose agents were visited and which had departed according to their belief later, not one was signalled as having passed Sandy Hook bar.

Kansas City, March 10.—A report comes from Wyandotte that an aged German, named Bruin, in anticipation of Wiggins' storm dug a small cave on the premises and stored it with provisions and to-day, accompanied by his family, he descended into the cave and closed up the door and at the last report was still in it waiting developments.

At Halifax the wind was west, moderate, cloudy, thermometer 24.

At Quebec, dull, light, east winds.

Montreal, dull, mild, no wind.

Ottawa, cloudy, light snow, furies; very little wind.

Toronto, cloudy, mild; no wind.

London, snowing heavily; mild.

Chicago, light snow this morning; weather throughout the northwest generally cloudy to-day.

Chicago, March 10.—Specials to the associated press from all parts of the northwest report a light snow and wind at many points, but no very severe storms. The weather in Dakota is clear, and in northeastern Minnesota, at high winds and threatening snow. At Ishpeming, Wisconsin, it is snowing and drifting badly. At Marquette it is blowing a gale and the snow is drifted badly.

San Francisco, March 10.—No signs of a storm on the Pacific coast. Wiggins' prophecy frightened many persons, and one German resident has built an ark and placed in on his roof, ready for the tidal wave announced to sweep through the Golden Gate.

Boston, March 10.—A northeast rain storm set in at 11:45. The velocity of the wind was twenty-nine miles an hour, temperature 35, barometer 29; thermometer 32 and slowly falling.

A heavy rain storm at Providence, Rhode Island, and at Newport the wind is rising and blowing very fresh. A special from Newport says the tremendous sea-cliffs are very high now and reach the tops of the wharves. Many people are extremely nervous. The beach roars as it has not done for years, the "shouting look" sending columns of water to unusual heights. A telegram from Highland, Massachusetts, gives the wind as south-east and south-west and fresh, which indicates a severe gale coming on from Boston.

Plymouth, March 10.—The storm began at noon. It is now raining hard and the wind blowing violently and increasing from the northeast. Very full sea.

Elmira, N. Y., March 10.—It has been snowing since early this morning but no wind.

Worcester, Mass., March 10.—The twenty-fifth snow-storm of the season began this forenoon. It is snowing rapidly more so than during any storm this season. Barometer is lower than for years.

CORSICANA.

Special to the Gazette.
Corsicana, March 10.—An old Frenchman named Peter Tardiville, who through too much spiritualism has had his head turned, has again been declared insane, his property sold and the proceeds taken charge of by the county court, himself confined in the county jail and application made for his entrance into the state lunatic asylum at Austin.

Lieutenant Governor Martin arrived to-day from the capital and will remain at home until entirely recovered from his late indisposition.

Congressman R. Q. Mills arrived from Washington last night and Dr. C. S. Moore and Representative Stout will both spend Sunday here.

BELTON.

Special to the Gazette.
Belton, Texas, March 10.—The cotton on the Santa Fe platform took fire this evening and about thirty bales were more or less damaged. It is believed to have started from sparks from a passing engine. The station & Pacific officials have done the handsome thing throughout, furnishing the best means that west Texas affords, which is good enough for anybody. Tucker hired the band to escort the party to the train at Toyon. Supper was taken here. The party lays over until morning and will reach Fort Worth early to-morrow morning.

The Turf.

Chicago, March 10.—The list of entries for the special stakes offered by the Chicago Driving Park for the summer trotting meetings of 1883 and 84 presents a flattering showing. In the Ashland stakes for 1883, there are twenty-five entries, and in the same stake for 1884, twenty-five.

In the Chicago stakes for 1883, there are twenty-three entries, and for 1884, fifty-nine. They come from all parts of the country, including New York, Texas, Massachusetts and California.

Out of Water.

Shawneetown, Ill., March 10.—The greater portion of the lower town is now out of water and trains are running again. Many houses that weathered the floods are now falling, total or partial wrecks.

A league and brood of birds in lieu of the head-right certificate of New York in May as President ready looking to this city. In ten months, or by next fall, President J. F. the crew who are in the rigging. Life-They do not deny, however, that the secretary is much prostrated and his system generally disorganized.